

Ballot Drives: Not for the Faint of Heart!

After several last-minute cliff-hangers, the Libertarian Party has gotten its presidential ticket onto the ballot in all 50 states. But it was a wild rollercoaster ride getting there.

We reported in August that Alaska's original petition drive had been unsuccessful. We then completed a second drive, and filed a lawsuit challenging the earlier, arbitrary filing deadline.

Then, in mid-September, we were told of confusion in the Secretary of State's office in Vermont in regard to our status there. Although they would waive the December 31 "meeting" deadline, in order to be on the ballot the LP of Vermont had to hold two more public meetings, with one week's published notice, in time for the "final" deadline on September 17!

Vermont LPers, led by Larry Phillips and assisted by Massachusetts LPer Lee Nason, were able to complete these meetings successfully, and file the numerous official forms required to assure ballot status there, on the final deadline. Also on that day, we received word that the judge in Alaska had ruled in our favor. Minnesota, the only other last-minute ballot drive, had also been completed.

For a few hours, we rejoiced that we had made 50 states, only to hear that the Alaska Attorney General was going to appeal our case! So we waited, with fingers crossed, until we heard that the Alaska ballot had gone to press with the names Andre Marrou and Nancy Lord printed on it! 50 states at last!

Many thanks to all who worked so hard to achieve this difficult goal, and especially to those of you who contributed far above and beyond your normal levels of giving in order to fund the ballot drives.

Nationwide TV Ads Running Ads Air Daily on CNN

Television ads are becoming a reality, at last, for the Libertarian Party this year. Both the Marrou/Lord Campaign and the

national LP are running TV ads supporting our national ticket and giving out our 800 number. The ads have appeared several times almost every day on CNN's Headline News over the last three weeks, as well as in selected regional media markets.

More money is, of course, desperately needed to continue and expand this schedule up through election day. Of course, the LP relies on our pledgers to help fund our ongoing operations, which include such work as responding to the numerous calls on our 800 number, organizing campus groups, and funding potentially winnable state house races. Thank you for helping fund these important budget items with your monthly pledge.

And if you can possibly do it, and you would like to send additional contributions to help us continue to fund our TV ad program, please send your extra check today, payable to the Libertarian Party.

Republican Crosses Party Line; Endorses Marrou

On Monday, October 5, State Rep Stephen Dresch, of Hancock, Michigan, joined Andre Marrou in a five-city news conference/town meeting swing, in which Dresch endorsed Marrou for President over the candidate of his own party, George Bush. Dresch and Marrou, as well as Dresch's aide and his son, and a journalist covering the event, were flown around Michigan, and into one town in Wisconsin as well, by MLC Operating Committee member Steve Givot, who is a private pilot.

Debates Stir LP, Media Protests Protests Organized

The Bi-Partisan Commission on Presidential Debates, as well as the Bush, Clinton, and Perot campaigns, have turned deaf ears to our appeals to be included in the upcoming national debates. Libertarians, livid about this unfair treatment, organized massive protests held outside the St. Louis and Atlanta debate sites.

Several national media pundits have picked up on the theme that "if Perot is included in the debates, Marrou should also be included." Some even go so far as to say